

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 15404 221727Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5133

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STADIS//////////

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: VT, IT, US, PDIP
SUBJ: DELEGATION TO PAPAL CORONATION

REF: A. STATE 212552 B. ROME 15201

1. PURSUANT TO REQUEST IN REF A. SARROS DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF DELEGATION TO CEREMONIES RELATING TO CORONATION OF FUTURE POPE WITH MONSIGNOR GIOVANNI COPPA, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE WHO IS ALSO CONSIDERED THE VATICAN'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL.

2. MSGR. COPPA WAS CAREFUL TO REITERATE CAVEATS REGARDING POSSIBLE DATES AND CEREMONIAL EVENTS REGARDING THE CORONATION WHICH WE RELATED IN ROME 15202. NEVERTHELESS, ON BASIS OF FORMAL CONVERSATION WITH MSGR. COPPA (AND VARIOUS INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR CONTACTS IN OFFICE OF PROTOCOL AND OFFICE OF CEREMONIES) WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE CAN BEGIN PLANNING FOR AN OFFICIAL PARTY TOTALLING TWENTY-FIVE PERSONS. VATICAN, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT OFFICIAL DELEGATION BE NO MORE THAN FIVE OR SIX AND THAT WHILE ALL TWENTY-FIVE WILL BE ASSURED SPECIAL SEATING AT THE CORONATION

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PAGE 02 ROME 15404 221727Z

CEREMONY, ONLY THE OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE TWO OTHER FUNCTIONS PRESENTLY ENVISIONED FOR THE DAY FOLLOWING THE CORONATION -- I.E., THE AUDIENCE WITH THE NEW POPE AND THE RECEPTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

3. FYI: WE BELIEVE THAT WE COULD, IF WE PRESSED,

OBTAIN AN ADDITIONAL FIVE SPECIAL SEATS, ESPECIALLY IF CORONATION
CEREMONY TAKES PLACE AT THE STEPS OF THE BASILICA OF ST. PETER
AS PRESENTLY PLANNED (RATHER THAN IN THE BASILICA WHERE SEATING
IS LIMITED). HOLMES

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Message Attributes

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